

PUBLICITY.....NEW ORLEANS - ST. LOUIS STARS.....

RISE OF THE NEW ORLEANS STARS
TO DIAMOND GREATNESS IS ONE OF BASEBALL'S
UNIQUE STORIES

The rise of the New Orleans St. Louis-Stars were first organized in 1937 under the name of the Mound Blues, Managed by their present manager, George Mitchell and owned by Allen Johnson of Mounds, Illinois. In that year the Blues won 72 games while losing only 8. The team turned professional in 1938 under the name of the Indianapolis A. B. C. 's, representatives of the Hoosier City, in the Negro American League. They finished third in the league, but as the Hoosier city did not provide adequate financial return the team moved its franchise to St. Louis, playing there as a league member under the name of the St. Louis Stars, during the years of 1939-40.

In 1940 the team finished the second half schedule as representatives of the city of New Orleans, a deal consummated through the untiring efforts of Allen Page, promoting genius of the Crescent city. The team finished in a second-place deadlock with the Memphis Red Sox in one of the most heated campaigns in the history of the Negro American league.

Now playing as the New Orleans-St. Louis Stars, the team is composed of a group of fast young hustling ball players who are hustling every minute they are on the field. They are one of the league's best drawing cards and always make a good showing for themselves regardless of opposition.

A hurried glance at the Stars lineup reveals the following:

Number one man for the Stars is Don Wilson. Wilson is 29 years old plays both infield and outfield well; is a switch hitter and blasts the ball well over the .300 mark; usually hits in third place in the lineup, but is often used as a lead off man. Wilson was the hero of the 1939 East-West classic played in Chicago. His tremendous home run in the eighth inning of that game with one of his mates aboard put the West out front and on their way to a well earned victory. Wilson is A St. Louis product.

Eldridge Mayweathers, 31 is a product of Shreveport, La. He plays first base, hits from the left side, carries plenty of power and leads his team in home runs. He has a .342 batting average, usually hits in the clean up position. He also plays a stellar game in outfield and is a deserving captain of the team.

Alfred Armour, 25 years old, plays shortstop, hits left handed, is a fine hitter and usually hits well over .300. He is very fast and has a fine throwing arm; Armour's home is Carbondale, Illinois.

Marshall Riddle, 24, plays second, hits lefthanded, and is a classy fielder. He is rated by many experts as one of the best in the business. Riddle hails from St. Louis and has a .290 batting average.

James Ford, 29, plays third base, is one of the best hitters on the club and usually hits fourth or fifth in the batting order. Ford, who hails from Memphis, can play anywhere in the infield and is often switched in case of injury to another infielder.

Bradford Bennett, 19 years old, is a product of Fulton, Ky. Bennett is left fielder. He is the wonder boy of the club, making good since his hump from the sandlots at the age of 17. This boy is fleetfooted and can chase a fly ball with the very best.

Jack Brutton, a native of Cordova, Ala., plays outfield, is a substitute firstbaseman for Captain Mayweather who is sometimes troubled with a bad ankle. Brutton carries plenty of power and is a dangerous hitter in the pinches.

Robert Smith, 33, catcher, hails from Memphis, Tenn., hits right-handed, is a fair hitter and is rated by Manager Geo. Mitchell as one of the smartest catchers in the Negro American League. Smith is a dangerous hitter in the pinches.

Raymond Taylor, 31, is a fine backstop, has a great throwing arm and is a good hitter. Hitting from the right side, he has blasted above the .300 mark for a nice average. Taylor, a Memphis boy, is known as "Broadway" to his teammates.

The pitching staff is made up of a bunch of young hurriers who work hard all the time they are on the mound. Under Mgr. Mitchell's guidance the Stars have gathered the best all around staff in the league and is the most feared by opposing teams.

Eugene Smith, Walter Calhoun, Frank "Chip" McAllister and Charles Boone are the Big Four. Leroy Sutton and Lafayette Washington are also good pitchers and are fighting hard for starting berths on the club.

Jesse Warren plays the utility role and can play both infield and outfield well. He is a very fast man and a very good hitter.

Eugene Smith pitched a no hit game against the New York Black Yankees this season.